CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile communication device comprising:

a housing having first and second sections pivotally connected by a hinge mechanism that allows rotation of said first and second sections relative to one another between at least a first folded position and a second folded position;

a display disposed on said first section;

a camera lens disposed on said second section;

wherein in said first folded position, said first and second sections of said housing are folded in side by side relation with said display and said camera lens facing towards each other; and

wherein in said second folded position, said first and second sections of said housing are folded in side by side relation with said display and said camera lens facing away from each other.

2. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the hinge mechanism comprises first and second hinges.

3. The mobile communication device of claim 2 wherein the first section connects to the first hinge and the second section connects to the second hinge.

4. The mobile communication device of claim 2 wherein the hinge mechanism further comprises a hinge member, a first hinge connector integrally molded with the first section, and a second hinge connector integrally molded with the second section.

5. The mobile communication device of claim 4 wherein the first and second hinge connectors pivotally connect to the hinge member.

6. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the hinge mechanism has first and second axes of rotation.

7. The mobile communication device of claim 6 wherein the first section rotates about the first axis of rotation and wherein the second section rotates about the second axis of rotation.

8. The mobile communication device of claim 6 wherein the hinge mechanism further comprises a first hinge connector integrally molded with the first section and a second hinge connector integrally molded with the second section.

9. The mobile communication device of claim 8 wherein the first hinge connector rotates about the first axis of rotation and wherein the second hinge connector rotates about the second axis of rotation.

10. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein said first and second sections are movable to at least one unfolded position.

11. The mobile communication device of claim 10 wherein the first section is angularly spaced between 150° and 170° from the second section when said first and second sections are positioned in the at least one unfolded position.

12. The mobile communication device of claim 11 wherein the first section is angularly spaced approximately 160° from the second section when said first and second sections are positioned in the at least one unfolded position.

13. The mobile communication device of claim 1 further comprising a latch to secure the first and second sections when said housing is positioned in said first folded position.

14. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the hinge mechanism pivotally connects a side of the first section to a side of the second section.

15. The mobile communication device of claim 14 wherein the hinge mechanism pivotally connects a bottom side of the first section to a top side of the second section.

16. The mobile communication device of claim 1 further comprising a keypad disposed on said second section proximate said camera lens.

17. The mobile communication device of claim 1 further comprising a keypad disposed on said first section proximate said display.

18. The mobile communication device of claim 1 further comprising a mode control circuit disposed within at least one of the first and second sections.

19. The mobile communication device of claim 18 wherein the mode control circuit configures the mobile communication device to operate in a camera mode when said first and second sections are positioned in said second folded position.

20. The mobile communication device of claim 18 wherein the mode control circuit configures the mobile communication device to operate in a standby mode when said first and second sections are positioned in said first folded position.

21. The mobile communication device of claim 18 wherein the mode control circuit configures the mobile communication device to operate in a communication mode when said first and second sections are positioned in at least one unfolded position.

22. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein said display functions as a viewfinder when said first and second sections are positioned in at least one unfolded position.

23. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the display functions as a display when said first and second sections are positioned in at least one unfolded position.

24. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein said display functions as a viewfinder when said housing is positioned in said second folded position.

25. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the mobile communication device comprises a cellular telephone.

26. The mobile communication device of claim 1 wherein the mobile communication device comprises a palmtop computer.

27. A housing for a mobile communication device comprising:

a first housing section with a first side and a second side;

a second housing section with a first side and a second side;

a hinge mechanism pivotally connecting said first and second housing sections to allow said first and second housing sections to rotate between a first folded position, in which said first and second housing section are folded in side by side relations with said first sides facing, and a second folded position, in which said first and second housing section are folded in side by side relations with said second sides facing.

28. The housing of claim 27 wherein the hinge mechanism comprises first and second hinges.

29. The housing of claim 28 wherein the first housing section connects to the first hinge and the second housing section connects to the second hinge.

30. The housing of claim 28 wherein the hinge mechanism further comprises a hinge member, a first hinge connector integrally molded with the first housing section, and a second hinge connector integrally molded with the second housing section.

31. The housing of claim 30 wherein the first and second hinge connectors pivotally connect to the hinge member.

32. The housing of claim 27 wherein the hinge mechanism has first and second axes of rotation.

33. The housing of claim 32 wherein the first section rotates about the first axis of rotation and wherein the second section rotates about the second axis of rotation.

34. The housing claim 33 wherein the hinge mechanism further comprises a first hinge connector integrally molded with the first housing section and a second hinge connector integrally molded with the housing second section.

35. The housing of claim 34 wherein the first hinge connector rotates about the first axis of rotation and wherein the second hinge connector rotates about the second axis of rotation.

36. The housing of claim 27 wherein said first and second housing sections are movable to at least one unfolded position.

37. The housing of claim 36 wherein the first side of the first housing section is angularly spaced between 150° and 170° from the first side of the second housing section when said housing is positioned in the at least one unfolded position.

38. The housing of claim 37 wherein the first side of the first section is angularly spaced approximately 160° from the first side of the second section when the housing positioned in the at least one unfolded position.

39. The housing of claim 27 further comprising a latch to secure the first and second housing sections when said housing is positioned in said first folded position.

40. The housing of claim 27 wherein the hinge mechanism pivotally connects a side of the first section to a side of the second section.

41. The housing of claim 40 wherein the hinge mechanism pivotally connects a bottom side of the first section to a top side of the second section.

42. A method of assembling a housing for a mobile communication device comprising:

pivotally connecting first and second housing sections with a double hinge mechanism that allows rotation of said first and second housing sections relative to one another between at least a first folded position and a second folded position;

positioning a display on the first housing section;

positioning a camera lens on the second housing section;

wherein in said first folded position, said first and second housing sections are folded in side by side relation with said display and said camera lens facing towards each other; and

wherein in said second folded position, said first and second housing sections are folded in side by side relation with said display and said camera lens facing away from each other.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the double hinge mechanism comprises first and second hinges and wherein pivotally connecting said first and second housing sections with said double hinge mechanism comprises connecting the first housing section to the first hinge and connecting the second housing section to the second hinge.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein the double hinge mechanism has first and second axes of rotation, the method further comprising rotating the first housing section about the first axis of rotation and rotating the second housing section about the second axis of rotation to position the first and second housing sections in the first and second folded positions.

45. The method of claim 42 further comprising rotating the first and second housing sections relative to one another to at least one unfolded position.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein rotating the first and second housing sections relative to one another comprises rotating the first and second housing sections relative to one another to an angular spacing of between 150° and 170°.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein rotating the first and second housing sections relative to one another to the angular spacing of between 150° and 170° comprises rotating the first and second housing sections relative to one another to an angular spacing of approximately 160°.

48. The method of claim 42 further comprising securing the first housing section to the second housing section when the first and second housing sections are positioned in the first folded position.

49. The method of claim 42 wherein pivotally connecting the first and second housing sections with the double hinge mechanism comprises pivotally connecting a side of the first housing section to a side of the second housing section with the double hinge mechanism.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein pivotally connecting the side of the first housing section to the side of the second housing section with the double hinge mechanism comprises pivotally connecting a bottom side of the first housing section to a bottom side of the second housing section with the double hinge mechanism.

51. The method of claim 42 further comprising positioning a keypad on said second housing section proximate the camera lens.

52. The method of claim 42 further comprising positioning a keypad on said first housing section proximate the display.